corresponding to a daily dosage of from about 0.01 mg to about 0.05 mg, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients, said drospirenone being in micronized form or sprayed from a solution onto particles of an inert carrier.

3. **(Amended)** A composition according to claim 1, comprising the drospirenone in an amount corresponding to a daily dosage of from about 2.5 mg to about 3.5 mg.

5. **(Amended)** A composition according to claim 1, comprising the ethinylestradiol in an amount corresponding to a daily dosage of from about 0.015 mg to about 0.04 mg.

6. **(Amended)** A composition according to claim 1, comprising an amount of drospirenone corresponding to a daily dosage of from about 3.0 to about 3.5 mg and ethinylestradiol in an amount corresponding to from about 0.015 to about 0.03 mg.

7. **(Amended)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient is selected so as to promote rapid dissolution of the first and second active agents, the dissolution being determined by applying the USP paddle method, the dissolution media being water at 37 °C and the stirring rate being 50 rpm, and wherein rapid dissolution means that at least 70% of the first and second active substances are dissolved within 30 minutes.

9. **(Amended)** A composition according to claim 7, wherein at least 80% of the first and second active agents are dissolved within 20 minutes.

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10. **(Amended)** A pharmaceutical kit consisting of a number of separately packaged and individually removable daily dosage units placed in a packaging unit and intended for oral administration for a period of at least 21 consecutive days, wherein said daily dosage units each comprise a combination of 6β,7β;15β,16β-dimethylene-3-oxo-17α-pregn-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone, drospirenone, in an amount of from about 2 mg to about 4 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount from about 0.01 to about 0.05 mg, said drospirenone and said 17α-ethinylestradiol being in micronized form or sprayed from a solution onto particles of an inert carrier.

11. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 10, which additionally comprises 7 or less daily dosage units containing no active agent intended for oral administration subsequent to the period of at least 21 consecutive days, the total number of daily dosage units being at least 28.

12. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 11, wherein the number of daily dosage units comprising the combination of drospirenone and ethinylestradiol is 21, 22, 23 or 24, and wherein the number of daily dosage units containing no active agent is 7, 6, 5 or 4.

13. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 10, wherein the number of daily dosage units comprising the combination of drospirenone and ethinylestradiol is 28, or a multiple of 28.

14. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 10, which comprises a number of daily dosage units comprising the combination of drospirenone and ethinylestradiol which is a multiple of 21, 22, 23 or 24, and additionally comprises a number of daily dosage units containing no active agent which is the same multiple of 7, 6, 5 or 4.

16. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 10 wherein the at least 21 daily dosage units comprise drospirenone in an amount of from about 2.5 mg to about 3.5 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount of from about 0.015 mg to about 0.04 mg.

17. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 10, wherein the at least 21 daily dosage units comprise drospirenone in an amount of from about 3.0 to about 3.5 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount corresponding to from about 0.015 to about 0.03 mg.

18. **(Amended)** A pharmaceutical kit consisting of a number of separately packaged and individually removable daily dosage units placed in a packaging unit and intended for oral administration for a period of at least 28 consecutive days, wherein at least 21 of said daily dosage units comprise a combination of 6β,7β;15β,16β-dimethylene-3-oxo-17α-pregn-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone, drospirenone, in an amount of from about 2 mg to about 4 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount from about 0.01 to about 0.05 mg, wherein said drospirenone and said 17α-ethinylestradiol are in micronized form or sprayed from a solution onto particles of an inert carrier, and wherein at least 1 but no more than 7 of said daily dosage units contain 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount from about 0.01 to about 0.05 mg and contain no drospirenone.

19. **(Amended)** A kit according to claim 18, wherein the number of daily dosage units comprising the combination of drospirenone and ethinylestradiol is 21, 22, 23 or 24, and

wherein the number of daily dosage units comprising ethinylestradiol without drospirenone is 7, 6, 5 or 4.

21. (Amended) A kit according to claim 18, wherein the at least 21 daily dosage units comprise drospirenone in an amount of from about 2.5 mg to about 3.5 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount of from about 0.015 mg to about 0.04 mg

22. (Amended) A kit according to claim 18, wherein the at least 21 daily dosage units comprise drospirenone in an amount of from about 3.0 to about 3.5 mg and 17α-ethinylestradiol in an amount of from about 0.015 to about 0.03 mg.

Add the following new claims:

36. The composition of claim 1, wherein the drospirenone is in the form of an ester or prodrug of the compound.

37. The composition of claim 1, wherein the 17α-ethinylestradiol is in the form of an ester or ether of the compound.

38. The composition of claim 1, wherein the drospirenone is provided on a carrier which is of carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, gelled starch, gelatin or polyvinylpyrrolidone.

39. The kit of claim 10, wherein the drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol are provided on a carrier which is of carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, gelled starch, gelatin or polyvinylpyrrolidone.

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40. The kit of claim 18, wherein the drospirenone and 17α-ethinylestradiol are provided on a carrier which is of carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, gelled starch, gelatin or polyvinylpyrrolidone. –.